

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5712
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 1064

EXDIS

EC BRUSSELS FOR HARTMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, CY, TU, US
SUBJECT: GOC DEMARCHE ON US SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY

REF: STATE 088501

1. GOC FONMIN CHRISTOPHIDES ASKED ME TO CALL ON SHORT NOTICE APRIL 20, SAYING HE WISHED TO DISCUSS US PLANS FOR SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY.
2. AT OUR NOON MEETING, IN ORDER TO SAVE TIME I GAVE CHRISTOPHIDES THE ESSENCE OF UNDER SECRETARY HABIB'S APRIL 19 CONVERSATION WITH CYPRIOT AMBASSADOR DIMITRIOU REPORTED REFTEL. CHRISTOPHIDES EVIDENTLY HAD NOT RECEIVED A REPORT FROM DIMITRIOU AND TOOK NOTES ON THE PRINCIPAL ELEMENTS OF THE PROPOSED US APPROACH TO SECURITY ASSISTANCE FOR TURKEY. THIS DID NOT DEFLECT HIM, HOWEVER, FROM PROCEEDING WITH HIS DEMARCHE.

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3. CHRISTOPHIDES SAID THAT DURING THE EVENING OF APR 19 GOC HAD RECEIVED "A NUMBER OF URGENT AND DISTRESSED TELEPHONE CALLS FROM ABROAD" EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT SHORTLY-TO-BE-ANNOUNCED AID TO TURKEY. AS A RESULT OF THESE CALLS, SENIOR OFFICIALS OF GOC (CHRISTOPHIDES, MRS. STELLA SOULIOTI, MINFIN PATSALIDES AND MINLABOR SPANOS) HAD MET EARLY

APR 20 TO WEIGHT INFORMATION AT HAND AND CONSIDER GOC COURSE. OUTCOME WAS A THREE-POINT MESSAGE WHICH GOC WISHED TO HAVE CONVEYED TO SECRETARY VANCE. MESSAGE, WHICH CHRISTOPHIDES THEN DICTATED, WAS AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE A. IF USG PROCEEDS WITH WHAT APPEAR TO BE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STATE DEPT, THERE COULD BE A PROBLEM WITH REACTIONS IN CYPRUS AND GREECE DETRIMENTAL TO THE PRESENT GOOD PRO-WESTERN CLIMATE IN BOTH COUNTRIES AND DETRIMENTAL ALSO TO THE POSITION OF ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS, WHO IS PUTTING ALL HIS CONFIDENCE IN THE NEW US ADMINISTRATION.

B. IF USG PROCEEDS, GOC IS AFRAID LEVERAGE WHICH NOW EXISTS WITH TURKEY WILL BE LOST.

C. TURKEY WILL HARDEN ITS POSITION AS A RESULT. END QUOTE.

4. ASKING IF CHRISTOPHIDES WOULD LIKE TO HEAR MY FRIENDLY AND CANDID, PERSONAL REACTION, AND RECEIVING AN AFFIRMATIVE RESPONSE, I SAID MY GREEK CYPRIOT FRIENDS WERE VERGING ON MAKING THEMSELVES LOOK SILLY. POSITION TO BE PRESENTED TO CONGRESS WOULD NOT BE A POSITION OF DEPT OF STATE BUT OF THE ADMINISTRATION. THIS POSITION, DERIVING FROM MR. CLIFFORD'S VISIT TO THE AREA, WAS SUBTLE AND DESIGNED TO INFLUENCE TURKEY FAVORABLY IN THE CYPRUS NEGOTIATION. GREEK CYPRIOT LEADERSHIP WOULD, I THOUGHT, BE REGARDED AS UNREASONABLE IF IT CAME OUT AGAINST A POLICY INTENDED TO STIMULATE A CYPRUS SOLUTION. CHRISTOPHIDES HAD HINTED AT A RECURRENCE OF PUBLIC OUTCRY AGAINST THE US. I REGRETTED THAT ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS

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WAS NOT IN THE FULL HEALTH WHICH WOULD HAVE BROUGHT HIS PERSPECTIVE INTO PLAY ON THIS MATTER AND ENABLED HIM TO USE HIS WELL-KNOWN CAPABILITIES TO SEE TO IT THAT THE GREEK CYPRIOT PRESS AND PUBLIC OPINION SAW US POLICY ON AID TO TURKEY, WHEN ANNOUNCED, IN THE CORRECT LIGHT. IN THE CURRENT SITUATION IN WHICH MAKARIOS WAS UNABLE TO PLAY A FULL ROLE, I WAS CONFIDENT THAT CHRISTOPHIDES AND HIS COLLEAGUES COULD TAKE THE NECESSARY ACTIONS TO EDUCATE PUBLIC RESPONSE.

5. CHRISTOPHIDES SAID HE TOOK THESE COMMENTS IN THE GOOD SPIRIT IN WHICH THEY WERE OFFERED. WITH THIS PERSPECTIVE, HE THOUGHT REACTIONS IN THE MODERATE SECTORS OF CYPRIOT SOCIETY COULD BE FAVORABLY INFLUENCED. SCALING DOWN THE NATURE OF HIS APPROACH, HE ASKED THAT SECRETARY VANCE REGARD THE THREE POINTS MADE AS BEING MORE IN THE NATURE OF "FRIENDLY CONCERNS OR THOUGHTS." THE ONLY ELEMENT THAT CONTINUED TO BOTHER HIM WAS THAT ON AUTHORIZATION OF ADDITIONAL CASH SALES. GOC WAS WELL AWARE OF TURKEY'S CRITICAL FOREIGN EXCHANGE SITUATION, BUT "THERE WOULD BE THOSE" WHO WOULD SEE THIS

AS A DEVICE TO GET MORE ARMS TO TURKEY FINANCED BY A THIRD PARTY "SUCH AS GERMANY." I REPLIED THAT I HAD BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO THE CONVOLUTIONS OF CYPRIOT THINKING BUT RESERVED THE RIGHT NOT TO FOLLOW THEM DOWN THESE BYZANTINE PATHS. US POLICY WAS INTENDED TO ENCOURAGE TURKEY TO TAKE THE RIGHT ACTIONS ON CYPRUS, NOT TO PUSH IT INTO A HUMILIATING AND UNPRODUCTIVE CORNER.

6. COMMENT: FROM CHRISTOPHIDES' PRESENTATION, I HAVE EVERY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE DEMARCHE, OR WHATEVER IT DEVOLVED INTO DURING OUR DISCUSSION, WAS DEVELOPED WITHOUT CONSULTATION WITH MAKARIOS. FINANCE MINISTER PATSALIDES CONFIRMED THIS LATER AT LUNCHEON. THIS IS HIGHLY UNUSUAL, IF NOT UNIQUE, GIVEN THE FACT THAT US AID POLICY TOWARD TURKEY IS A PARAMOUNT CONCERN OF GOC. IT DINDICATES TO US THAT DESPITE SOME SHORT CEREMONIAL MEETINGS DESIGNED TO IMPRESS THE PUBLIC, MAKARIOS OR HIS PHYSICIANS MUST CONTINUE TO BE QUITE APPREHENSIVE
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ABOUT HIS HEALTH.
CRAWFORD

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Message Attributes

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